PRESTEIGNE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

for the

YEARS 1953 and 1954

of the

Medical Officer of Health

Presteigne Urban District Council

1953 Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

(Incorporating Report of the Sanitary Inspector)

St. David's,
Presteigne.

To the Chairman and Members of the Presteigne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report on the Health of the Urban District for 1953.

The general health of the district remains good and there have been no major epidemics.

The rate of new houses being built per head of the population is very high, and I understand that a start is to be made on dwellings for old people, which is highly commendable as they are greatly in need. There is, however, room for improvement in the modernisation of some of the old houses.

With regard to the water supplies, I am not convinced as to the adequacy of supply to the upper houses of the Castle Road estate, although the sample reports from the Analyst continue to be satisfactory. In view of the Government's grants for main services, I feel that the time has come to investigate the matter of the water supplies.

I wish to thank Mr. T. Kenneth-Duncan for his help during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
DAVID WALKER,
Medical Officer of Health.

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health	David Walker, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector	T. Kenneth - Duncan, F.V.I., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. Incorporated Surveyor and Valuer.
Clerk of the Council	Cecil Sellers

Section A.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA.

Area (in acres)	2718
Population	1263
Number of inhabited houses	475
Rateable value of the area	£4457
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£17

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	1952			1953		
	M	F	T	M	F	T
Live births (legitimate)	10	8	18	13	6	19
(illegitimate)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Still births	1	—	1	—	—	—
Deaths (all causes)	6	7	13	7	11	18
Deaths of infants under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile mortality rate	0·00			0·00		
Birth rate (per 1,000 of Pop.)	14·3			15·00		
Still birth rate (per 1,000 live and still births)	52·6			0·00		
Death rate (per 1,000 of Pop.)	12·7			14·2		

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M	F	T	M	F	T
Cancer	1	2	3	1	4	5
All Infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bronchitis	—	—	—	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	—	1	1	1	—	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	1	3	4	2	2	4
Heart disease	3	—	3	1	1	2
Other Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coronary Disease, Angina	1	1	2	1	1	2
Other defined or ill defined diseases	—	—	—	—	1	1
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total—All Causes	6	7	13	7	11	18

MALIGNANT NEOPLASM:

	1953		
	M	F	T
Stomach	—	1	1
Breast	—	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	2	3
Total	1	4	5

Presteigne Urban District.

Age Periods	Diphtheria Immuni'tion	Whooping Cough Inoculation	Vaccination
	1953	1953	1953
Under 1 year	3	2	11
Age 1 year	12	1	—
Age 2 years	1	1	1
Age 3 years	1	—	—
Age 4 years	1	—	—
Age 5 — 9 years	—	—	1
Age 10 — 14 years	—	—	—
Age 15 plus	—	—	1
Total	18	4	14

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION of HEALTH SERVICES for THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Public Health Laboratory in Hereford provides the necessary facilities for the area. Special facilities are available at a private Laboratory in Gloucester.

CLINICS. The County Council hold the Child Welfare Clinic on the first Tuesday in each month at the Shirehall, Broad Street.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES of the AREA.

WATER. The Presteigne Water Company, Ltd., are the non-statutory suppliers of water to the Urban area. Samples taken during the year showed the supply to be bacteriologically safe after treatment.

In some parts of the area inadequate pressures and lack of supply are experienced and when these are taken up with the Company efforts have been made to overcome them. It is regretted that the gathering grounds of this supply are not satisfactory and that the sole means of treatment is by chlorination.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Trouble has been experienced at the outfall works in the Tanyard with excessive silting of the main sewers and on occasion flooding of sewerage into private properties has occurred. The works at the Tanyard are old and would appear to be reaching the end of their useful life.

To attempt to relieve the back pressures which occur at frequent intervals plans have been laid to make a new sewer draining Broad Street and Back Lane areas and at present appears satisfactory.

The system of disposal by land filtration on the Leominster road has worked satisfactorily during the year. Constant attention to gutters and ditches has ensured a satisfactory effluent.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. No cases of complaint regarding pollution have been received during the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL. The weekly collection of refuse takes place in the town. It is to be regretted that this service is not extended to the rural part of the district as it is felt that this could be arranged at fortnightly intervals at a moderate cost.

REFUSE TIP. Refuse disposal takes place by controlled tipping. The present tip is now nearing the end of its useful life and consideration will have to be given to renting or acquiring further land for tipping in the near future.

On the present site the tip face has always been very deep and this has necessitated very careful control to prevent fire. Careful raking and spreading has always had to be carried out and this in the long run has probably made this site more expensive to reclaim than the more normal.

SANITARY INSPECTION of the AREA.

Inspections—

During the year 270 visits of inspection were made.

Number of Inspections under the Public Health and Housing Acts ...	168
Number of Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937	12
Number of Inspections in connection with water supplies ...	90
Premises and clothing disinfected ...	2

NOTICES ISSUED

Informal	—
Statutory	8

Defects remedied

Informally	30
Statutory	8

Section D.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The good standard of cleanliness of premises and personell that the Council has come to expect from the traders was well maintained. Traders are always willing to co-operate and suggestions made by the officials of the local authority are always welcomed.

It is felt that the suggestions and the leaflets distributed by the Local Chamber of Commerce to all traders help, in no small measure, to maintain the high standard of which the owners and the local authority are justifiably proud.

Presteigne Urban District Council

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To the Chairman and Members of the Presteigne Urban District Council.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report on the Health of the Urban District for 1954.

The general health of the district remains good, with no major outbreaks of illness.

The old people's bungalows at the Castle Road site are an excellent institution and we must bear them in mind when future building is considered.

Negotiations are in progress with the Water Company, over the possible purchase of their holdings. With one exception the samples from the laboratory have been satisfactory.

The condition of the sewage field is, as it always has been in my opinion, highly unsatisfactory and action will have to be taken very soon to provide modern sewage disposal commensurate with a town of this size.

I would like to thank the Surveyor for his continued co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DAVID WALKER,
Medical Officer of Health.

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health	David Walker, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Clerk of the Council	Cecil Sellers

Section A.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA.

Area (in acres)	2718
Population	1250
Number of inhabited houses	475
Rateable value of the area	£4457
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£17

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	1953			1954		
	M	F	T	M	F	T
Live births (legitimate)	13	6	19	12	12	24
(illegitimate)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Still births	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths (all causes)	7	11	18	4	2	6
Deaths of infants under 1 year	—	—	—	1	—	1
Infantile mortality rate	0·00			41·6		
Birth rate (per 1,000 of Pop.)	15·00			19·2		
Still birth rate (per 1,000 live and still births)	0·00			0·0		
Death rate (per 1,000 of Pop.)	14·2			4·8		

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M	F	T	M	F	T
Cancer	1	4	5	—	—	—
All Infective and parasitic diseases	—	1	1	—	—	—
Bronchitis	1	1	2	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	1	—	1	—	—	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	2	2	4	1	—	1
Heart disease	1	1	2	—	—	—
Other Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	1	1
Coronary Disease, Angina	1	1	2	—	—	—
Other defined or ill defined diseases	—	1	1	1	—	1
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	1	—	1
All other accidents	—	—	—	1	1	2
Total—All Causes	7	11	18	4	2	6

MALIGNANT NEOPLASM:

	1954		
	M	F	T
Stomach	—	—	—
Breast	—	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—

Presteigne Urban District.

Age Periods	Diphtheria Immuni'tion	Whooping Cough Inoculation	Vaccination
	1954	1954	1954
Under 1 year	—	—	10
Age 1 year	11	1	—
Age 2 years	—	—	—
Age 3 years	1	—	—
Age 4 years	—	—	—
Age 5 — 9 years	—	—	—
Age 10 — 14 years	—	—	—
Age 15 plus	—	—	4
Total	12	1	14

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION of HEALTH SERVICES for THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Public Health Laboratory in Hereford provides the necessary facilities for the area. Special facilities are available at a private Laboratory in Gloucester.

CLINICS. The County Council hold the Child Welfare Clinic on the first Tuesday in each month at the Shirehall, Broad Street.